The subscriber of the other telephone is one Shri Brijesh Singh. The punishment of stoppage of interviews for one month has been recommended for the accused persons from whose possession the telephones were recovered.

Southern Gas Grid

75. SHRI SELVARASU M :
SHRI SAMY. V. ALAGIRI :
SHRI SODE RAMAIAH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for a Southern Gas Grid has been approved in principle by the Government long back,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in implementation of the above project; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to expedite the implementation of the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T R BAALU). (a) to (d) The concept of a Southern Gas Grid was approved by the Government in principle in 1992 The Southern States have commissioned a study to ascertain the requirements and locations of gas based units in Southern India The Government is actively exploring the feasibility of importing natural gas from Oman/Iran and Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) at ports in Southern India.

Tuberculosis

76 SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA . Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether Tuberculosis is the most killer disease in India,

(b) if so, the number of persons died due to T.B. during the last three years, State-wise,

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent its further spread, and

(d) the name of the drugs used for the cure of this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) :(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The TB mortality rate as estimated in various surveys is 50 per one lakh population. Hospital based data relating to deaths is compiled by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence.

(c) To control Tuberculosis, National Tuberculosis Control Programme has been implemented in the country since 1962 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 50 : 50 sharing basis between the Centre and the States So far 446 District TB Centres have been established with diagnostic and treatment facilities with the services provided free of cost To cut short duration of treatment, Short Course Chemotherapy has been introduced in 292 districts It is proposed to cover the whole country under the programme by 2000 AD.

Following a review of the programme in 1992 a revised strategy has been adopted to strengthen the programme to achieve at least 80% cure rate The strategy is being tried in 16 project sites with World Bank assistance The early results of these Pilot Projects have been vary encouraging

This strategy will be extended throughout the country in a phased manner

(d) Drugs prescribed under the National Tuberculosis Control Programme are Rifampicin, INH Ethambutol, Pyrazinamide, Streptomycin and Thiacetazone

Export of Hank Yarn

77 SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) the total quantity of hank yarn exported during the year 1995,

(b) the limit fixed for export of hank yarn,

(c) the amount as subsidy sanctioned during 1995-96 for production of hank yarn,

(d) the steps taken by the Government to mitigate the grievances of weavers due to the scarcity of hank yarn, and

(e) the terms of reference offered to the Mira Seth Committee appointed by the Planning Commission to improve the performance of the handloom industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R L JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) The hank yarn in count group 1-60s is not permitted to be exported, except under Advance Licensing Scheme. The export figures for hank yarn are not maintained separately

(c) and (d). Government of India did not provide any subsidy for the production of hank yarn However subsidy at the rate of Rs 20/- per kg was allowed to approved handloom agencies on purchase of hank yarn from spinning mills under Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Secheme Presently there are no reports of scarcity of hank yarn For maintaining adequate supply of hank yarn to the handloom weavers the Government of India has been enforcing the hank yarn obligation on the mills to pack at least 50% of their yarn of obligatory varieties for civil consumption in the form of hanks. Besides this the Government of India is operating the Mill Gate Price Scheme

(e) The terms of reference of Mira Seth Committee on Handlooms constituted by the Ministry of Textiles are as follows :

(i) Assess the extent to which the objectives of the Textile Policy, 1985 have been achieved by the Handloom Sector;

(ii) Assess the impact of various schemes which are being implemented in the handloom sector;

(iii) Assess the threats and opportunities facing the handloom sector and devise ways and means to capitalise on the opportunities and in particular recommend comprehensive support necessary to achieve a quantum jump in exports

(iv) Make a comprehensive assessment of the bottlenecks in the way of development of the handloon sector in all areas including input supplies, credit support, production technology, design availability, organisational structure, marketing support, exports etc. and to recommend (a) measures to promote rapid development of the handloom sector, (b) measures for its growth in an economically viable manner

New Mineral Policy

78 SHRI BABURAO DADA PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some foreign companies have shown their interest to make investment in Mine Sector in India as a result of announcement of new mineral policy

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of minerals and metals for which the above companies have shown their interest, and

(d) the reaction of the Governmet thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :(a) to (d). Yes, Sir. After the announcement of the National Mineral Policy, 1993 a number of foreign companies have expressed interest in making investments in the mining sector. This interest is for prospecting and mining operations for minerals like gold, and basemetals. The applications of these, companies are being processed as per the terms of the National Mineral Policy, 1993 and the provisions kof the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act 1957.

Price of Petroleum Products

79. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of petroleum products have been increased;

(b) if so, the details therefor; and

(c) the rationale behind the increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government has increased the price of administered petroleum products except Kersene for demestic use w.e.f. mid-night of 2nd/3rd July, 1996. Further, the price of HSD was reduced w.e.f. mid-night of 6th/7th July, 96. A *statement* giving the pre revised and revised ex-storage point ceiling selling prices of administered petroleum products exclusive of Excise Duty, Sales-tax and local levies is enclosed.

(c) The price increase has been necessitiated to contain the deficit in the oil pool account and thus enable oil companies to maintain uninterrupted supply of petroleum products in the country.

STATEMENT

Revised Ex-storage point prices with effect from midnight of 2nd/3rd July, 1996 of Administered petroleum products

Name of Product	Selling Unit	Existing Basic Ceiling selling Price Ex-storage Point Exclusive of Excise Duty Etc (Rs./SU)	Revised Basic Ceiling Selling Price Ex-Storage Point Exclusive of Excise Duty Etc. (Rs./SU)	Percentage Increase
1	2	3	4	5
MS-87	KL	12844.34	16055.43	25.00%
MS-93	KL	15344.34	19180.43	25.00%
MS-80	KL	12873.49	16091.86	25.00%